

# Connections



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Your monthly news & updates

## Talking Books Program

The Talking Books program at the North Dakota State Library provides eligible patrons with free access to audiobooks and magazines. It is administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), a division of the Library of Congress.



Our Reader's Advisors are available to help patrons fulfill requests, help with players, and answer questions about your account and application. Whether you call or come in to inquire or enlist in our help with Talking Books, you will be met with people who are passionate about the work they perform and the services they provide.

You'll find books about North Dakota as well as ones authored by North Dakotans. There is also a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction, which is sure to please any audience. And, with Duplication on Demand, we can download multiple books onto one cartridge.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Persons who are totally or legally blind
- Persons with visual disabilities who are unable to read standard print clearly and comfortably for a reasonable length of time
- Persons with physical disabilities who cannot hold a book, turn pages, or focus on printed material due to muscle or nerve deterioration, paralysis, or some other disabling condition

If you or someone you know might be eligible to use this fantastic program, please contact us at 701-328-1408 or visit <http://www.library.nd.gov/talkingbooks.html>.

### How to Bake Cookies

Self-Paced, Online Class

[+ Join this Course](#)

North Dakota State Library

12  
Lessons

9  
Exams & Assignments

4  
Hours average time

0.4  
CEUs

Video Audit Available

With the holidays upon us, it's time for holiday cookies! Chocolate chip cookies, peanut butter cookies, sugar cookies, and gingerbread men. Every person has their favorite variety, but most people have a special place in their hearts for cookies and the memories they carry with them. If you are new to baking cookies or want to brush up on your baking skills, check out the "How To Bake Cookies" course featured in Universal Class.

In this course, you will learn how to recapture the spirit of the perfect cookie, how to make them from scratch, and how to share them with family and friends for years to come. The time to complete the entire course is about four hours, and it is broken out into 12 lessons. This course is complete with the support of a few wonderfully delicious recipes to impress any guest.

[Let's Get Baking!](#)

### Universal Class Most Popular Courses

1. Homeopathy 101
2. Genealogy 101
3. Memory Improvement
4. Mindfulness in the Workplace
5. Basic Research Skills
6. Spanish Cooking 101
7. Introduction to Medical Coding
8. How to Draw 101
9. Computer Literacy Level 1: Computer Basics
10. How to Write a Grant Proposal

If you would like assistance with Universal Class, please contact the State Library at 701-328-4622 or [statelib@nd.gov](mailto:statelib@nd.gov).

### ChILLin' with ILL

Holidays can be expensive. One way you can save some money this year is by using your Library card. In addition to lending items from our collection, we also offer items from other libraries all over the country through ILL. The only cost to you is getting the items back to the ND State Library. So, go ahead and treat yourself to your perfect winter read.

If you have any ILL requests or questions, please contact our ILL Department at [ndsill@nd.gov](mailto:ndsill@nd.gov) or 701-328-3252.

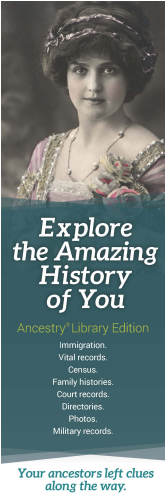


Ancestry Library Edition

Ancestry Library Edition is an online library resource that gives you access to a wide range of unique resources for genealogical and historical research. With billions of historical documents and millions of photos, this resource offers the most comprehensive genealogical information available online. Search through immigration, census, family histories, court records, directories, military records, photos, and more to discover new things about your ancestors.

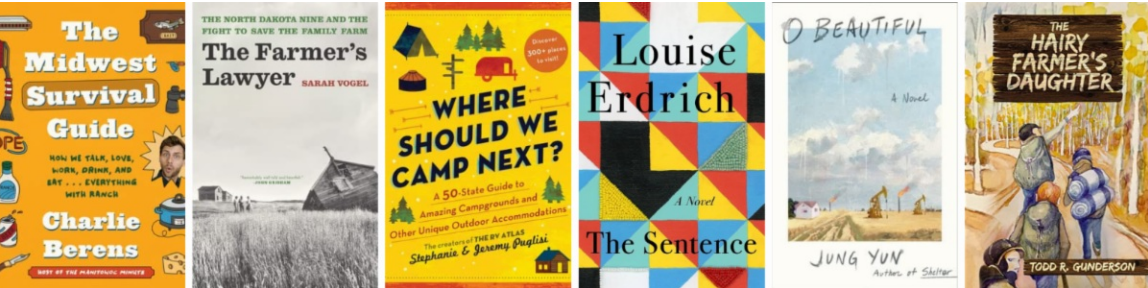
Ancestry Library Edition is available at home until December 31, 2021, after which you will only be able to access it at your local library. You can find a link on the State Library's Online Library Resources webpage at <http://library.nd.gov/onlineresources.html>.

For more information, please contact the State Library at 701-328-4622 or [statelib@nd.gov](mailto:statelib@nd.gov).



New Items Available at the North Dakota State Library

North Dakota Books



New Fiction Books



New Nonfiction Books



New Fiction E-Books



New Nonfiction E-Books



New Fiction E-Audiobooks





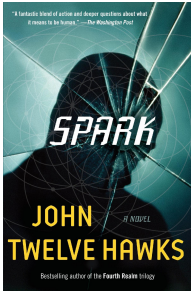
New Nonfiction E-Audiobooks



Book Review  
"Spark" by John Twelve Hawks  
Reviewed by Abby Ebach

Once in a great while, I get the itch to read a book outside of my comfort zone. In this case, I took something that was marketed as a “science fiction suspense thriller.” While it was set in a present-day dystopia, I have to say that I didn’t find much that I would consider suspenseful.

Jacob Underwood is a trained assassin who has Cotard’s Syndrome—a real disease that results in the affected person believing that they are dead. Since Underwood believes that he is nothing more than a Shell (his body) with a Spark (his mind), he does not understand or experience fear, pain, emotions, or guilt. These qualities make him the perfect candidate to be an assassin for a large corporation. He is eventually asked to “neutralize” Emily Buchanan, and tracking her down brings Underwood up close with a movement set on being human in a world that is constantly under surveillance.



"Spark" is deeply reminiscent of George Orwell's "1984," and will greatly appeal to anyone interested in a surveillance state and the gradual move towards living amongst and with computers (not just using computers). Underwood’s narration is consistent with his diagnosis—clear and unyielding, and while I expected this novel to be an escape into an unfamiliar world, it, instead, made me look at my surroundings a little bit differently as it plunged into the discussions of what truly makes us human amongst a world of machines.

“Spark” is available on the [Libby app](#).

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[www.library.nd.gov](http://www.library.nd.gov)

